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of punishment. but if the boys and masters are well chosen, the necessity for this punishment can seldom occur. The boys in this department of the institution, will be prepared for situations higher than those of mere mechanics; for instance, for those of parish clerks and schoolmasters, situations which formerly were often united, and which are obviously suited to each other, for the joint salaries of these occupations would enable a man to live respectably, so as to be looked up to in the parish, instead of being obliged to struggle for a mere subsistence. The pupils of this higher school would also be fit for country surveyors, for sub-engineers and overseers, and under agents, classes of men much wanted in Ireland. They would also be peculiarly fit for tutors in the families of farmers, who live at a distance from towns, and who are now obliged to employ persons of ordinary manners and insufficient acquirements.

At all events, these boys, by their previous education in the lower school, would be able to earn immediate bread as journeymen in such manufactures as were taught in the hospital. But to these occupations they would not in all probability be obliged to have recourse, as only five boys would, according to this limited plan, be sent out yearly from this upper school, there can scarcely be a doubt of finding places for them all; particularly, if those who are at first sent out should answer the expectations of their employers.

The lower school, and the twelve that go from it yearly, are separate considerations. Were the institution of this secondary and upper school to fail, its failure could not be considerably injurious in point of discipline and expense; were it to succeed, it would be imitated where ever there are means of imitation. What could more effectually encourage the great mass of the people to accept of education for their children, than being witness of the success of those who had obtained advantageous situations, by their own meritorious application while they were at school.

Observations on the old Men.

With respect to the old men, at
BELFAST MAG. NO XXV.

present two of them live out of the hospital. In the hospital, their diet is excellent in quantity and quality, their clothing warm and decent, their lodging a palace, and yet as they are idle they are not contented. There seems therefore no sufficient motive, to induce the trustees of Wilson's hospital to increase the number of the old men, unless they can be employed; and on the contrary, there appear the strongest inducements, from the state and extent of the buildings, the healthiness of the situation, the affluence of the funds, and the promising state of their present mode of instruction, to enlarge and encourage, and to render respectable the education of as many boys as the hospital can conveniently accommodate.

Observations on the Prejudice against Charity Schools.

Ireland is one of the few countries in the world, where absolute want, except in large cities, is unknown, and as among the lower Irish, filial piety is peculiarly prevalent, retirement to an hospital in old age is unpopular; but care should be taken to prevent this prejudice from extending to the idea of educating children in hospitals.

Every means should be taken to render it creditable to have been educated in our public charitable seminaries, which, from the reports before this board, appear to be in a flourishing condition, and promise to be of extensive and permanent advantage to this country.

Council Chamber, Dublin Castle

12th May, 1809,

{ (Signed)

WM. ARMAGH, (L. S.)

GEO. HALL, Provost, (L. S.)

JAS. VERSCHOYLE, } (L. S.)

Dean of St. Patrick's } (L. S.)

JAS. WHITELAW, (L. S.)

WILLIAM DISNEY, (L. S.)

RICHD L. EDGEWORTH, (L. S.)

R. S. TIGH (L. S.)

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I was a young man, I was a passionate admirer of nature in her simple dress, or rather in her own dress; yet I would sooner have excused her being loaded with becoming ornaments, than to be mishapen. It gave me no small concern to see the wild

luxuriance of the trees clipped off, and instead of walking under a beautiful natural shade, I was startled at every step by meeting a tall holly with a hat on, and its arms a kimbo, and below its thin waist it appeared to wear a hoop according to the fashion of those times; many other frightful figures daily and hourly shocked me where I might have reason to expect to meet nature herself in all beauty and luxuriance. Still more did I abhor the sight of horses with their tails set, and their ears cut off, and little dogs with their tails cut off. These and many more proofs I had of the extravagant folly and presumption of mankind in pretending to improve nature. Attempts to adorn her are bad, but distorting her is shocking. I observed that the nearer the works of nature approached to perfect beauty, the more pains were taken to deform them.

Of all things I wished to marry, & in my mind I had drawn the picture of a simple innocent young creature, who carelessly moved about in a loose robe, who always spoke her real mind, and unaffectedly fulfilled all her duties. With such a woman, thought I, I might enjoy life, and in whatever part of the world we should live, all should be simple and natural. It was in vain that I visited all the young women I knew, or heard of; they wore hoops, they pinched their bodies into the shape of an inverted sugar loaf. They dragged their hair almost off their heads, in order to erect a frightful fabric thereon; they painted their faces and necks, and thus disfigured their whole persons: their minds were in general as artificial, but their appearance in general so disgusted me, that I seldom took much pains to discover their mental qualities, concluding that they could not be to my taste if they would not disfigure themselves. In quest of Simplicity, I quit my native country, determining to trace her into whatever retreat she had fled; but in one country, I found people painting their faces with frightful colours, or scarifying their bodies, or pinching their feet, or stretching their mouths, or flattening their noses, and a thousand ways disfiguring themselves as badly or worse than my country-

men and women. After a great deal of travelling, I settled in America, where I observed what they call civilization is not far advanced, nor were they so dreadfully savage as in some countries. I kept up a regular correspondence with a friend who did not think me as mad as some of my acquaintance; he was in some degree of my mind, and informed me from time to time of the follies or improvements of my country. I think it was in the year 1790—I know it was soon after the French revolution, that he congratulated me upon my country women having renounced whalebone stays, which gave me infinite pleasure, particularly as I had before heard that there was a general downfall of the hideous buildings which were erected on the ladies' heads. I soon heard that high heeled shoes were no longer worn, and that the present generation did not know what a hoop was. But I had some sorrowful accounts of the waists being so extremely short as to make the women appear humpbacked and look unreasonably thick-waisted, which was not my wish, as I always had the Grecian model in my view, as being both natural and graceful. The letters I received about this time, gave me very various information, so that I could not judge whether or not there was any improvement.—I was no sooner pleased to hear of the ladies being of my mind with respect to their cinctures, than I was grieved to hear they wore little wool packs stuck upon different parts of their bodies both before and behind, and when I heard the agreeable tidings of the light floating robe, which had been the dream of my youth, I was immediately informed the ladies wore no petticoats, but tucked their shifts, and wore trains which were too long to sweep, but fell flat on the ground, or entangled in their legs. These were no parts of my plan. A very short time after, the fabric fell from their heads, they shaved off their own hair, and wore a wig of a different colour.—When the dangling ruffles were laid aside, the entire sleeve followed, and many kinds of puckered shoulder-knots were introduced, which gave

the graceful nymph the appearance of high shoulders. I could not understand that painting was by any means exploded in Great Britain and Ireland, though the inconveniences and fatal consequences of such a fashion were so well known. In the year 1807 my Correspondent assured me, that if I came to England, I might easily find that lovely female whom I so much wished for, but that the fashions were at present in such an unsettled state, which proceeded from carelessness, that it would be impossible to describe them. In short I ventured over, and was charmed to find in my friend's garden the appearance of elegant simplicity, but his wife and daughter were such curiously dressed beings, that I did not know whether the exploded or the present fashion was the more disgusting. I upbraided my friend for deceiving me, but he assured me, he was so naturalized to the various whimsical tastes of women, that he had in some measure adopted them. I observed that every time a lady breathed, she seemed oppressed in her chest, and heaved up her shoulders; the waist was indeed short as far as the gown was concerned, but the thin skirt clings very ungracefully to the lower part of the waist and hips, which are closely pinched by whalebone stays. On inquiry I find the stays are not entirely filled with bones, but that on the stomach, and up and down the body as the fancy directs, strong bones are set: by this means the parts which are not thought worthy to be fortified, bulge out most ungracefully, if the girl be fat; and if she be thin, the consequence is not so deforming; but every form is extremely injured by these cruel machines. I wonder when they were first invented, that our mothers did not put them on our more robust bodies. I must tell you that I have brought over a great deal of money, and though I am above forty years of age, yet many girls would be glad to get me, but I will have none of those I see. Could you inform me of any simple, natural looking girl, who would marry a man of forty-five, and promise to renounce the detestable fashions which are continu-

ally succeeding one another? I am at a great loss to know what inducement people have to disfigure themselves; sometimes I attribute it to that activity which prompts mankind to be busy, sometimes to the love of change, and again to the intolerable conceit which makes us think that we can do every thing better than it was done before. This is very well with respect to the works of art, but let no one alter the fair face of nature, perhaps all these reasons may have something to do in the matter, but from some circumstances I may impart to you in future, I am convinced that the principal reason that men and women invent modes of deformity, is, that some trouble and expense are necessary to carry the thing to much extent, therefore the poor people must even leave themselves to nature. These deforming machines also cramp the notions, and hurt the health, and there is nothing so interesting as a helpless, sickly female, but they grow old before their time, and are then not only sickly, but deformed, and tiresomely valetudinary. E.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

GENTLEMEN,

AS your magazine has such a widely extended circulation, I wish to consult you on a little matter which has often incommoded me very much. You know when a person is ill, it is natural for him to mention it to his friends, in hopes of meeting sympathy. I learned this custom when my old companion blessed my happy sight, and relieved all my cares and pains; if I tell my landlady that I feel a little of the gout in my toe, she immediately begins a dissertation upon the corn on her toe, which was occasioned by wearing a tight shoe, and for which she had tried every remedy in vain. Indeed it was painful to her that moment, and she was sure it would run to-morrow.

If I complain to my landlady's daughter of a swelled gum, she asks me if her nose looks red and swelled, and begs I would give her a little ointment to grease her chapped lips. This makes me so angry, that I tell her that her nose is red, but not more so than usual, and I recommend